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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Administrator/PIO

**MERCER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SCHEDULE FOR COVID-19  
PHASE 1B VACCINE CLINICS FOR FEBRUARY**

(January 15, 2021, Aledo, IL) – The Mercer County Health Department announced today that beginning Tuesday, January 19, 2021, they will begin scheduling clinics for the month of February for Phase 1b community members. These clinics will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These clinics will be by appointment only. Walk-in clinics are not being offered.

“Based on what we know at this time, we are scheduling 100 appointments per week due to the amount of vaccine we are receiving”, states Carla Ewing, Administrator. She adds, “We believe we will be receiving more vaccine in the future and will adjust our clinics as needed to get the vaccine to the community.”

Due to the overwhelming number of calls received, the Health Department asks that when you call to schedule an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine, that you do not leave a message for us to return your call. Please try to call again until you reach one of our schedulers. We will be unable to return calls to schedule appointments.

In addition to the 100 first dose clinics, the Health Department will be scheduling Phase 1a individuals who received their first vaccine from the health department and are due for their second dose. “We ask that people call for an appointment for the second dose only if you received the first dose at the Health Department,” states Angie Litterst, Director of Office of Emergency Management, “We will receive 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccine amounts for each week based on the number of shots given for the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.”

As a reminder to the public, Genesis Health Group is partnering with the Health Department in vaccine administration by focusing on their patients who are 65 and older. We encourage those individuals to contact their clinic at 309-582-9450.

To schedule an appointment at the Health Department, please call 309-582-3759.

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